

# The BUZZ

# WORD

Volume **12** Issue 4  
April 2021



May good luck be with you wherever you go,  
And your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow,  
And may trouble avoid you wherever you go.

[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

*Fulfilling the Promise*

**The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on ensuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.**

**VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.**

*For any Further Questions, Please Contact:*

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<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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## *From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson*



With the arrival of spring and the increasing numbers of Vermont residents becoming vaccinated, I am thankful that window and indoor visits have begun. Since the Bennington Banner article regarding our low vaccination rates among staff, 15 individuals have either received their first dose or have expressed interest in getting their vaccine. This includes 2 in administration, 1 in maintenance, 8 LNAs, 3 RNs/LPNs and 1 agency nurse. Education on the safety of the COVID-19 vaccination continues as well as reminders as to how to receive the vaccine.

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we have had to repeatedly delay visitation. Now that window visits and indoor visits are underway, I wanted to provide a few reminders and set some expectations. Hand hygiene and facial coverings are required during the entire visit. A brief hug at the beginning and end of the visit is permitted. Screening, including temperature checks and verification of non-exposure to those with COVID will be required to enter the facility. Proof of vaccination and recent PCR tests are not required but VVH will offer visitors the option to have a rapid antigen test completed just prior to your visit. Pets will be allowed for indoor visits. We will provide you with more in-depth visitation guidelines as we get closer to indoor visits.

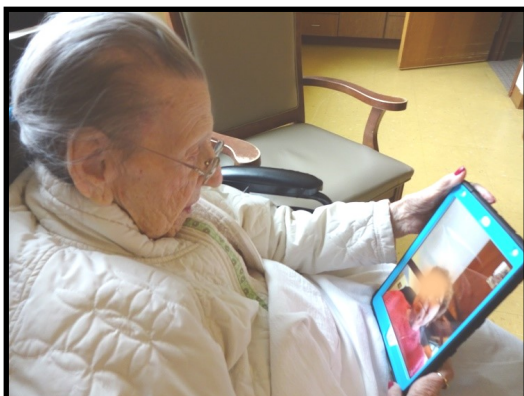
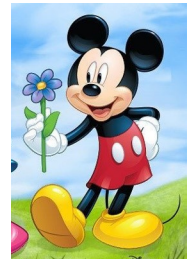
Although you and your loved one are both anxious and excited to see each other again, this first visit may cause stress and anxiety not just for your loved one but for you as well. Your loved one may not recognize you with a mask on. Your appearance and their appearance may have changed over the last several months. Your loved one may have had a slow physical or cognitive decline since you last saw each other. All these changes, on top of the first hug in over a year, maybe a lot for some to take it. My best advice is to take some time to get reacquainted with your loved one and enjoy your time together.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

**Take care,**

**Melissa**

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, FACHCA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
[www.Vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.Vvh.vermont.gov)



I may not always be with you  
But  
when we are apart  
Remember  
You will be with me  
Right inside my heart.

Veterans, Members, Families and Friends,

*From the Deputy Administrator,  
Asa Morin*

Many of you know me from the years that I have spent as a social worker here at the Veterans' Home. I'd like to take this opportunity to share a little about myself that you may or may not know. My first experience at the Veterans' Home was in 2011 when I completed a year-long internship during my Masters program. I continued on in my career and in 2014, I happily accepted a position here as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Now, I am honored to have been selected as the new COO and thankful to everyone who has put their trust in me.

I am a native of Wilmington, therefore, an expert at driving over Woodford Mountain! Outside of work I share my life with my husband Sean, our two young daughters, Amelia & Sophia and a tribe of dogs. You may know my therapy dog, Benny, from his visits to see the Veterans.

It has been an incredibly trying year. On a daily basis I am amazed at the strength and resilience of the Veterans and Members who we care for. To families: thank you for letting us care for your loved ones.

As Spring approaches, I am hopeful that we will move into a brighter time where we will be seeing you all for visits.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime!

**-Asa Morin, COO**



YBAB CSICHK \_\_\_\_\_  
TSABEK \_\_\_\_\_  
DEDY SGGE \_\_\_\_\_  
TRARCO \_\_\_\_\_  
LYJEL ASEBN \_\_\_\_\_  
SEEPP \_\_\_\_\_  
NYUNB \_\_\_\_\_  
ESEART \_\_\_\_\_  
CTOHCLAOE \_\_\_\_\_  
GPNIRS \_\_\_\_\_  
GGE NTHU \_\_\_\_\_  
PLUTIS \_\_\_\_\_

## EASTER WORD SCRAMBLE

ENJOY THE CHALLENGE  
Answers are upside down

HUNT, TULIPS  
EASTER, CHOCOLATE, SPRING, EGG  
CARROT, JELLY BEANS, PEEPS, BUNNY,  
BABY CHICKS, BASKET, DYED EGGS,

ANSWERS

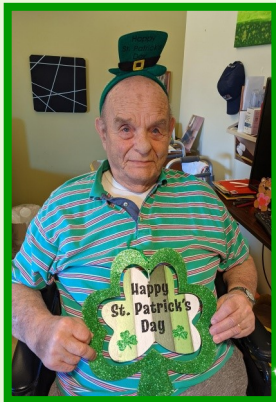


Everybody's a *little* Irish on  
St. Patrick's Day



## EDNA'S ART GALLERY 1936-2021





# Irish For A Day





## New Infection Control Happenings Improving Mouth Care

Patricia Babcock, RN, IP

As we all know, our mouth feels better when we brush, rinse etc. Mouth care is part of what we all do daily including our Veterans and Members.



We want to improve this part of ADL (acts of daily living) to our Veterans and Members by more involvement. We would like all Veterans and Members to get excited about getting mouth care and looking forward to it.

Did you know that germs in the mouth multiply rapidly and often trickle down into the lungs during sleep which can cause pneumonia? Removing the biofilm from teeth and tongue can help prevent pneumonia. Bottom line is to also save lives.

We are very busy working on a new program called HAPPEN (**H**ospital **A**cquired **P**neumonia **P**revention by **E**ngaging **N**urses to provide oral care). This is an initiative project developed by the Veterans Administration and we will be part of a pilot program.



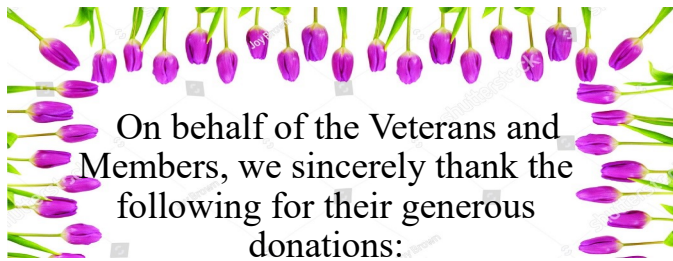
Our goal is to help prevent pneumonias by simply assuring mouth care is completed twice a day.

The project will be initiated on Brandon then continue to all other neighborhoods.



Let's get all excited about good mouth care!!!





On behalf of the Veterans and Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations:

**Hannaford Community Bag Program**

Steve Leach, VFW Post #771 Quartermaster

Jeanette Underwood

Mr. & Mrs. Bransfield

Ms. Carleen Vero

John Garrow

**Harned-Fowler Aux. #6471 – Manchester**

Kathy Gingras, VFW Aux. #758 – St. Albans

**VFW Auxiliary #758 – Robert E. Glidden Post**

Susan Brennan

Ms. Ellen P. Knudsen

Rhett Bessey

**Lori Simpson, VFW Aux. #10038 – Lyndonville**

Bennington Elks Lodge #567

Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts

Mrs. Gail Grote

Molly Stark Elementary

Shaftsbury Elementary

**Village School of North Bennington**

Monument Elementary School

Bennington Elementary

Woodford Elementary

Sacred Heart Elementary

Grace Christian School

**American Legion Aux. Unit #13**

VFW Post #1332 Aux.

**American Legion Aux. Unit #49 - Fair Haven**

Jim Quinlan

Charlotte Lyons

**The 'Vermont Everyone Eats' Team– Kevin,**

Carolyn, Steve, Jean, and more

**In Loving Memory of Rosemarie Lenhardt**

George Lenhardt

**In Loving Memory of Kent Straat**

Donna Straat

**In Loving Memory of Robert Hill, Sr.**

Cheryl Sharkey

**In Loving Honor of Moss Loy's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Joyce Williams

**Q: What do Easter Bunnies do when music starts playing?**

**A: Hop, hop, hop!**



\* Joke provided by B. Bardsley \*

**VVH Staff Recognition  
Years of Service**

**Cleaning, Housekeeping & Laundry**

Patricia Brochu- 1 year

**Dietary**

Vincent Barbiero- 13 years

Michael Lampron- 5 years

**Finance**

Sylvia Boulger- 4 years

**Environmental Services**

James Kinney- 15 years

**Nursing**

Denise Chiorgno- 32 years

Kathryn Canon- 26 years

Amy Harrington- 14 years

Jared Ameden- 10 years

Marcia Ethier- 5 years

Lori Sprague- 4 years

Christine Lanfair- 1 year

Rachel Perry-Hannam- 1 year



### THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:  
[www.vvh.vermont.gov](http://www.vvh.vermont.gov)  
Click on About Our Home  
Click on Newsletters
  - ♦ Email
  - ♦ Mailing List (postal)
- To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word  
Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

Kiauna Wait  
(802) 447-6510  
Email: [Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov](mailto:Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov)

### VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles  
(4th Generation)



Newspaper Subscriptions  
Earphones for TV and Music  
Neck Pillows                Stamps  
CD Players                I-Tune Cards  
Body Pillows                Costume Jewelry  
Outdoor Benches  
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

***Please make check for monetary donations out to Vermont Veterans' Home:***

***Vermont Veterans' Home  
Business Office  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201***

**Your donations are gratefully accepted.  
THANK YOU**

**Due to COVID-19, we are not able to accept: books, CDs, puzzles or used clothing. We will keep you posted when changes are made. Thank you for your patience and understanding.**

### DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted. Please make check out to Vermont Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home  
Business Office  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are donating:

#### Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members  
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing  
Other personal needs

#### Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation  
Supplies, Equipment

#### Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment  
Large purchase

#### Activities Fund:

Entertainment

#### Music & Memory Fund:

iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

#### NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward  
a paved walkway around  
the perimeter of the VVH



I visited  
a lot of  
Veterans  
and  
Members  
with my  
human  
friend.

Just so you know, I am dog tired.

## Howdy Folks,

Hallelujah! The Vernal Equinox (1st Day of Spring) is finally here and we still have snow on the back of the lawn. I can't remember being more anxious to see springtime arrive. It has been a long haul of a winter what with the COVID-19 pandemic we have had to endure as well.

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

For Christians around the world it is the Lenten season. This is the 40 days before Easter, when Christians give up something in remembrance of the suffering of Jesus Christ. It is a time of penitence and fasting. Catholics and Protestants celebrate the Lenten Season.

Historically, starting on Ash Wednesday, we make a commitment to give up something that is important to us as an exercise in self-denial. Usually it is something like ice cream, delicious desserts, coffee, beer or wine. It is also a good time to start doing better at being kinder, more charitable, more respectful to others, even those we haven't a lot of affinity for. Giving up bad habits is also a good way to sacrifice during Lent. So folks, unless you are perfect, think of a bad habit you can get rid of permanently.

Our Jewish friends recently celebrated Purim (the deliverance of the Jewish people from a massacre plotted by Haman). Haman, a high official in the Persian Empire, devised a plan to eradicate all Jews but Esther became aware of the plot and took advantage of her privileged position to approach the King and reveal the plot to him. Haman was executed and the Jews were saved. Purim is a worthy event to celebrate.

Please pray for the souls lost to the pandemic, and don't forget to pray for our troops and the great Vermont Veterans' Home.



**God Bless and Happy Easter to All.**

**Chaplain Ken**

P.S. Remember God loves us and there is nothing we can do to change that so accept Him into your heart.



Cindy Rankin, Nutritional Services Director, passes the spatula to Paul Yerke. Cindy will be retiring at the end of the March.

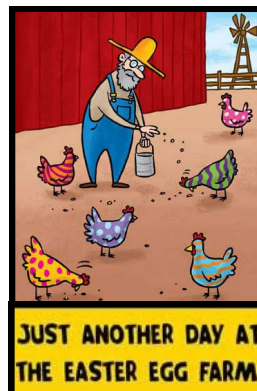
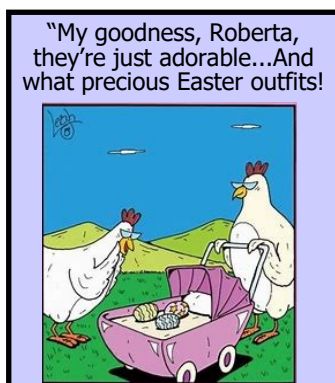
Cindy worked closely with the Dietician to create a healthy menu with a wide variety of choices for our Veterans and Members. She and her staff provided over 1,095 meals each year and during her 12 1/2 year career has made an estimated 2,190,715 meals.

We bid Cindy a fond farewell and welcome Paul to his new appointment as the Nutritional Services Director.



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #49—Fair Haven made a donation of puzzles, books, throw blankets, Easter goodies, socks and palm crosses to the Veterans and Members of the Home. These are just a few items listed, there may be other surprises once the totes are unpacked.

Accepting the donations are Melissa Jackson, CEO (left) and Michele Burgess, Activities Director (right)





Jacob Rogers-Martin



Christina Cosgrove, Director



Asa Morin

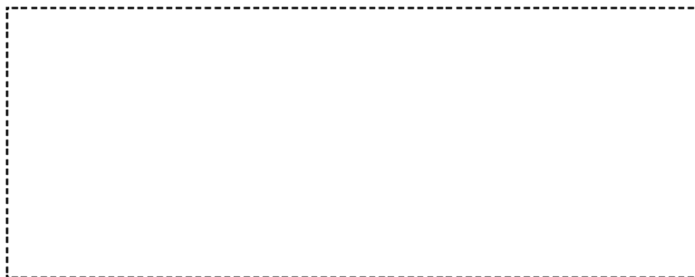
## MARCH WAS SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH

The Vermont Veterans' Home is proud to have dedicated, caring and professional staff to assist our Veterans and Members.

Thank you Christina, Asa and Jacob for your exceptional service to the residents of our Home.



***"FULFILLING THE PROMISE"***



Vermont Veterans' Home  
325 North Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

